



PAW PRINTS

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LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ Lady Lake Library W. Guava Street. Board/General meets 6:30. Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

IN THIS ISSUE

5 Things to Know About Vomiting	1
Happening Now	2
If a Snake Bites your Pet	3
How do Aspirin and Other NSAIDs Affect Dogs	7

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT LEKC

October 23rd Speaker from Wolfgang's Bakery
November 2nd & 3rd Eustis, Obedience & Rally Trials
November 20th, Club meeting
December: 11th, Christmas Party
January 15th, Meeting
January 23rd & 24th, Conformation Show, Ocala

5 Things to know About Vomiting (It's not something to dismiss, especially if it's regurgitation)

- 1) Vomiting should be taken seriously, as it can lead to life-threatening dehydration and changes in electrolytes that are essential to normal cell function.

- 2) Make a veterinary appointment if you see blood or coffee-grounds-like material (digested blood) in the vomit or if you notice lethargy, vomiting for more than 24 hours, a painful belly, or a fever.
- 3) An isolated case in vomiting might subside if you withhold food (not water!) for 12 hours and then feed plain white rice and boiled chicken for two days. If that doesn't work, your veterinarian may check for the cause and suggest famotidine (Pepcid AC), maropitant (Cerenia), or ondansetron (Zofran.)
- 4) Infrequent vomiting, such as after eating grass, is likely an isolated incident. But vomiting even once a week may indicate a disease.
- 5) Regurgitation does not include retching. In regurgitation, there's no warning, and it may indicate an esophageal problem.

Happening Now *

New N.Y. Law – Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a law for rescuing pets trapped in cars in New York that makes firefighters and emergency medical professionals not responsible for any vehicle damage that occurs when removing a pet from a hot or cold car. Previously, only police officers were protected.

Pizza and Pets – Angelo's Pizza in Matawan, N.J. is "delivering more than just food," according to CBS New York Channel 2. They're posting flyers of missing pets on their pizza boxes in an attempt to help locate pets in the neighborhood that are reported missing from their homes.

Packed and Ready (in an emergency, it's best to be able to grab and go)

One never knows when an emergency – whether due to a natural disaster or one of human making – may strike. It's wise to have an emergency/evacuation kit for your dog ready to go, because you don't want to leave your beloved pet behind.

At a minimum, this kit would include a few days' worth of medications and food, food dish, poop bags to clean up after him, a container of water with a suitable water bowl. Put a harness, leash and collar in the kit. Include your contact information, as well as that of a family member or a friend who could be reached if you aren't available or injured and the name of your veterinarian. For more information on handling disasters, see

<http://tinyurl.com/dogwatch> disaster. **Dog Watch Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine*



Photo by: Tonja Brandt

This was an interesting read on the Dr. Karen Becker's daily feed.

https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2019/09/11/snakebites-in-dogs.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1HL&utm_campaign=20190911Z1&et_cid=DM341157&et_rid=705352107

If a Snake Bites Your Pet, Never Do This

Recently I read about two separate [snakebite](#) incidents involving dogs and rattlers — one in California and one in Colorado. In the first case, two women and their three dogs were hiking in the desert and exploring mines, when one of the dogs, a 6-year-old Mastiff, was bitten on the foot by a baby rattlesnake.

In a race against time, the women quickly descended the mountain with the three dogs, and somehow located an open veterinary office (it was Sunday) two hours away that had antivenin on hand. When they arrived, the antivenin was still frozen and took another hour to thaw.

The Mastiff received two vials of antivenin (at \$500 each) over an extended period of time, and proceeded to make a slow, painful recovery that was complicated by seizures. The final bill was around \$3,000.

In the second incident, a dog hiking a trail with her owner sustained three bites from a rattler, at least one of which was on her tongue. Two mountain bikers who happened by helped carry the dog down the mountain to try to control the spread of the [venom](#), and the dog's owner called around to vet clinics until she found one that stocked the antivenin.

The dog's bites were the worst the treating veterinarians had ever encountered, and she wound up in ICU, but is expected to make a full recovery.

Believe It or Not, Most Snakebites Happen in the Backyard

The majority of snakebites in companion animals occur in the backyard, where dogs and many cats are allowed to roam around loose. Humans tend to make noise and scare off snakes, whereas pets are more likely to quietly approach and even stalk a snake they encounter on their home turf. If the snake is moving or rattling, it's an even greater curiosity.

Most pets get bitten on the nose, neck or legs, which are the areas that will naturally be closest to a striking snake. Even nonvenomous snakebites can be quite painful, and bacteria at the bite site can cause a secondary infection. If your pet sustains a snakebite, don't try to capture or kill the snake to bring it with you. Instead, quickly snap a cell phone picture, or if that's not possible, take a mental picture so you can provide a physical description of the snake to the vet staff upon your arrival.

If you suspect your dog or cat has been bitten by a snake, the best thing to do is get him to an emergency animal hospital immediately, as most regular veterinary clinics don't keep antivenin on hand. If possible, call the clinic when you are on your way so they can be prepared when you arrive. If your furry family member is bitten by a poisonous snake and requires antivenin, be prepared for a sizeable vet bill.

What to Do if Your Pet Is Bitten by a Snake

If your dog or cat receives a snakebite, it may be difficult to determine if it is venomous. Always err on the side of caution and [seek emergency veterinary care](#) if you're not sure what type of snake is involved.

Often, a bite from a venomous snake will cause swelling that spreads rapidly, but there are some cases, such as a bite from a coral snake, in which minimal symptoms will occur initially, but left untreated the bite can be life-threatening. Additional symptoms of snakebite in pets include:

- Swelling
- Bleeding
- Pain
- Weakness or shortness of breath
- Low blood pressure

Don't apply a tourniquet or ice to your pet, and don't try to suck out the venom or cut out the wound. Remove his collar if the bite is near the neck and try to keep the area of the bite below his heart level. Keep him quiet and calm. The less he moves around the better, as movement hastens the spread of the venom through the bloodstream.

Carry your pet to your vehicle and get him to an emergency animal hospital right away. If you saw the snake that bit him, try to either get a cell phone photo or remember its color and any distinctive markings. Giving a dose of homeopathic Lachesis from your holistic first aid kit on the way to the ER is a good idea. Again, don't try to catch or kill the snake. It wastes time when time could make the difference between life and death for your pet. It's also risky. Muscle contractions in dead snakes may leave them capable of biting for several hours after death.

How to Help Your Pet Avoid Snakebites

If you live or visit areas where poisonous snakes are prevalent, it's important to keep your dog on a leash while [exploring national and state parks](#). It's also a good idea to make sure your pet steers clear of riverbeds. And since most snakebites to pets occur in backyards, unless you're very sure there are no snakes in yours, it's best to keep your pet on a leash out there as well.

With that said, fortunately, most snakes in the U.S. aren't poisonous, but since even a nonvenomous snakebite can be dangerous, it's best to avoid them whenever possible. The first thing you should do is get familiar with common snakes in your area, especially those that are venomous.

Keep your walkways clear of brush, flowers and scrubs, and clear away snake hiding spots in your yard by removing toys, tools and undergrowth. Also clean up any spilled food, fruit or birdseed that might attract rodents, because rodents attract snakes.

When you're out with your pet, keep her on a leash and steer clear of long grass, bushes and rocks. If you see a snake, don't try to walk by it. Instead, turn around and head back the way you came. Snakes can strike across a distance equal to about half their body length, and literally in the blink of an eye.

If your dog is inclined to chase anything that moves (or slithers) you should also consider snake avoidance training offered through many training facilities in endemic areas. I have many clients in the desert southwest who feel this is the best way to protect their dogs. For tips on snake aversion training, where to find trainers and other information, visit [PreventiveVet](#).



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*Photos submitted by Kathy Pearce

**“There are 86,400 seconds in a day. It’s up to you to decide what to do with them.”
(Jim Valvano)**

How Do Aspirin and Other NSAIDs Affect Dogs?

Some of the most common OTC pain relievers fall into the category of [nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs \(NSAIDs\)](#).

Common examples include aspirin, baby aspirin, ibuprofen and [naproxen](#). They all work by inhibiting an *enzyme* called cyclooxygenase, which produces hormone-like substances called prostaglandins that promote inflammation, fever and pain.

But prostaglandins also play many other roles in the body, like maintaining adequate blood flow to the kidneys, producing a layer of *mucus* that protects the inner lining of the *gastrointestinal* tract, and allowing blood to clot normally.

When these functions are adversely affected by NSAIDs, dogs can develop issues like:

Gastrointestinal ulcers

Vomiting and diarrhea (often bloody)

Loss of appetite

Bleeding disorders

Kidney dysfunction

Liver damage (in some cases)

Dogs may die without appropriate treatment. It is not safe to give your dog any amount of aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil), naproxen or other anti-inflammatory meant for humans without first talking to your veterinarian.

[Cats are especially sensitive to the adverse effects of NSAIDs](#), but because more dogs are exposed to these medications, a greater number of NSAID toxicity cases are reported in dogs in comparison to cats.

Less-Obvious Dangers of NSAIDs for Dogs

Other problems can arise with NSAID use in dogs for several reasons:

Sometimes an owner will give (or a dog will get into) an inappropriately high dose of one or more of these drugs.

Certain dogs are especially sensitive to NSAIDs formulated for humans and can develop dangerous side effects even when a correct dose is given.

The concurrent use of other medications (corticosteroids, for example) and/or the presence of certain health conditions like gastrointestinal, liver or kidney disease can make the use of NSAIDs for dogs more risky than normal.

What About Tylenol for Dogs?

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is not an NSAID, but it is still just as dangerous for dogs.

No one is exactly sure how it works to reduce pain and fever; it has no effect on inflammation. But when dogs ingest toxic amounts of acetaminophen, it destroys their liver cells, damages the kidneys and converts *hemoglobin*—the oxygen-carrying molecule in blood—to methemoglobin, resulting in poor oxygen delivery throughout the body and widespread tissue damage.

If you have a multi-pet household, you should also know that cats are so sensitive to the [adverse effects of acetaminophen](#) that ingesting just one regular-strength tablet can result in severe toxicosis, and two tablets can be fatal.

What Can I Give My Dog For Pain Relief?

For all of the above reasons, you should not give NSAIDs, like aspirin and ibuprofen, or other pain relievers, such as acetaminophen, to dogs or other pets without the supervision of a veterinarian.

Drug companies have designed specific pet pain medications that are safer and more effective for dogs than those that are designed for people. Your veterinarian can prescribe pain medicine that's made for dogs that can safely and effectively relieve your pet's discomfort.

With knowledge of the specifics of your dog's health status and history, your vet can make a proper diagnosis, determine which medication and dose is most appropriate for your dog, and design a plan for monitoring that will make treatment as safe as possible.

NSAIDs that are commonly used for dogs include [carprofen](#), [etodolac](#) and [meloxicam](#).

Other Pain-Relief Measures

Prescription medicines are not the only way to provide a dog with pain relief. Chronic inflammatory conditions such as [osteoarthritis](#) often respond well to dietary modification.

More severe cases can also benefit from [physical therapy](#), [acupuncture](#), [cold laser treatments](#) and other interventions.

Talk to your veterinarian to determine which medication or treatment is right for your dog.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

